AN EDIFYING WONDER OF TWO CHILDREN

dying an hundred years old:

OR

A ſhort account of the laſt hours of

SUSANNA BICKES;

In the 14. year of her age, before her death, the 1. of September 1664.

ALSO OF

JACOB BICKES

her Brother of ſeven years old, the 6. of Auguſt the ſame year.

Iſai. 65. 20. *The child ſhal die an hundred years old; but the ſinner being an hundred years old, ſhal be accurſed.*

Matth. 21. 16. *Have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and ſucklings, thou haſt perfyted praiſe.*

Luke 18. 16. 17. *And Jeſus called the little children to him, and ſaid: ſuffer the little children to come unto me, for of ſuch is the Kingdom of God. Verily, I ſay unto you, Who ſo receiveth not the Kingdom of God as a little child, he ſhal in no wiſe enter therein.*

GLASGOW, By Robert Sanders, Printer to the Town, and are to be ſold in his ſhop, 1668.

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TO THE READER.

THis was done at firſt in another language: And albeit I know that there *is ſo* much ſobriety in the moſt able who put pen to paper in theſe dayes, as maketh them to find ſome ſtarring upon their own ſpirits, vvhen they ſuppoſe how many of thoſe vvho look upon a new Book, may happen to vvelcom it into the vvorld, vvith a vvord of ſnuffing diſdain: *Tuſh, the world is too full of Books already.* Yet I am ſomevvhat above the fear of the hardeſt cenſure, for this ſmal and indirect acceſſion, to the adding of one poor ſheet more; that I am rather confident, that read vvho vvill theſe few pages, his conſcience vvithin him (ſuch as it is) vvill extort ſo much from him, like a teſtimony to the vvayes of God, that he ſhal at leaſt ſay, *O that I may die the death of the righteous, and that my latter end might be as his.* And that the Reader, vvho is taught the fear of the Lord, vvill be further enlightened and refreſhed, and perſvvaded of the vvays of holineſs; and more particularly of theſe few things following. Firſt, that there is a *Holy Ghoſt* vvhich dvvelleth in, and ſhal be vvith the Saints for ever. And 2. that he is *the Comforter* vvho alone can & ſhould comfort the ſoul. And 3. that his conſolations are not ſmal, by vvhich there is ſinging for joy of heart, & glorifying God, even in the fires; & by vvhich believers are enabled to laugh at deſtruction and famine, and dearth and peſtilence, and to lift up their heads, and be able to ſtand before the Son of God,

though they ſhould live to ſee the greateſt diſtreſſes of Nations, & the ſhakings of heaven & earth, vvhich make the hearts of the ſtout to ſtoop & fail. 4. That the pure ordinances of Chriſt are no vain things, but ought to be much followed and cleaved unto, & that there Chriſt giveth *his loves*. 5. That the Word is that ſword of the Spirit, and there is none like it againſt that *Goliah*, that red Dragon, that *Leviathan*, & the King of terrors. How mighty vvas this young Damſel in the Scriptures, and the young one vvanted not his own number of Scripture places; by vvhich, through grace, they did quite themſelves like men, & overcame: and at their death, declared themſelves by the faith & conſolation of the Scriptures, to have attained to the ſtature of perfect men? Chriſtians, know vvhat hour it is of your day, and vvhat is your vvork. Be faithful in the leſſer or greater things of opportunity and means of vvorking out your ſalvation. You do not know vvhat evil may be upon the earth, albeit vve know that the cup of trembling (go round as it vvill) from Nation to Nation, from Church to Church, from City to City, from family to family, yea often it beginneth at the houſe of God, and his own Sanctuary. *Ezek.* 9. 2. *Pet.* 3. But yet a little vvhile, and it ſhall be taken out of the hand of the Lords people, and the dregs thereof ſhall be vvrung out by all the vvicked of the earth, and that moſt ſignally by Antichriſt, Apoſtats, ſeducers, perſecuters, and others alſo, vvho have a form of godlineſs, and deny the power thereof.

THE

The last Hours of SUSANNA BICKES.

In the 14 year of her age.

SUsanna Bickes, born in Leyden, January 24. 1650. was visited from the hand of the Lord with the pestilence, upon the 30. of August 1664. being saturday, between 7. and 8 at night. And after the beginning of her sickness, there were considerable presages of her death. And very speedily she betook her self to the great Physician of soul and body. The first night, she exercised her self to earnest prayer, by her self alone, without many words of speech to others, that God would furnish her with strength in her soul, to bear out that great conflict which she did apprehend to be approaching with the waves of death: that she might by faith and patience, as becometh a dying Christian, partake of the victory which Christ hath purchased over death, to all those for whom he himself had tasted of death. And as God had blest the preaching of the Word abundantly to her, and the exercises private and publick

upon the Catechism: so that she had acquired a marvelous measure of knowledge, and dayly increasing in the same, from the very day that she was in any capacity to learn: so what instruction she received in the grounds of Religion, it did so take hold upon her, that not only she retained the notions thereof in her understanding: but the impressions of the truth were engraven upon her heart, of which she gave remarkable proofs at this time of her death. And that the Word of God had dwelt plentifully in her, whereby she was enabled to speak unto her self, and to sing with grace in her heart, making swæt melody to the Lord, while surrounded with the billows of the King of terrors marching in battle array against her, with the terrible slaughter weapon of the pestilence: as abundantly is evident by the ensueing words uttered by her, & faithfully collected; and by the advice and help of some judicious and religious persons published, for the use of others, both old and young. The account whereof might have bæn much larger then here it is done: but that several things did escape the memories of the by-standers, and of the per-man: being partly through grief, and partly through

through wonder, diverted from the true noting of the things which she uttered.

At the beginning of her sickness, she was heard, with much feeling & power, breaking forth to God with these words of the Psalm CXIX. If thy Law were not my delight, I should perish in mine affliction. Whereupon her father said to her: Be of good comfort, my child, the Lord will be near unto thee, and us, under this heavy and sore tryal, and will not forsake us, although now he chasten us. David by these words belike, meant of the Lords hand which had been heavy both upon his house and upon his person several ways. whereof we read in the Scripture. Yea, Father, said she, Our heavenly Father doth chasten us for our profit, that we may partake of his holiness. As we read Hebr. 12.10.11. *And albeit, as it is said there,* No chastening for the present time seemeth to be joyous but grievous; nevertheless afterwards it yeeldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them who are exercised by it. The Lord is now chastening me upon this sickbed, and I hope he will bless it so, as to make it to yeeld unto me that same blessed fruit, according to the riches of his mercy and compassions which fail not. And then sighing to God with her eyes up to heaven, she said: Be merciful unto me, O Father, be merciful unto me,

poor

poor sinner, according to thy word.

And looking upon her sorrowing parents who stood by her: Father, said she, *it is said in the* 55. Psal. vers. 23. Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shal sustain thee: for he will never suffer the righteous to be moved. Therefore, dear father and mother, cast all your care and sorrow upon the Lord, who shal make all things go well that concern you. Oh (said the mother) my dear child, I have had no smal comfort from the Lord in thee, and the fruits of his grace in thee, whereby thou hast been so much exercised unto godliness in the Word, and prayer, and religious and gracious discours, unto thine own, and our comfort and edification. The Lord himself who gave us thee, make up our loss of thee, if it be his pleasure that we must now part one from another. Dear mother (said she) albeit I leave you, yet God shal never forsake you: for it is said, Isa. 49. 15. 16. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the fruit of her womb: yea, she may forget, yet I will not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hand, &c. Oh comfortable words both for mothers and children. Mark, dear mother, how fast the Lord keepeth & holdeth his people, that he hath them (even) graven on the palmes of his

hand

hand: therefore think with your self, that albeit I must part with you, or ye with me, yet the Lord shall never separate from you or me.

She being wearied through much speaking, desired to rest a little: and after a very little time she awaked. Her father asked, How it was with her? but she asked, What day of the week is it now? Her father told her, It was the Lords day. Well, said she, have ye given up my name to be remembred in the publick prayers? Her father told her, he had done so. I have learned, said she, that the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous doth avail much. The two worthy Ministers, who are after mentioned, she would have much desired they should have been by her; but from her love to them, being much tender and careful of their safety, she would not have them desired to visite her: but rather satisfied her self to be call upon the Lords own hand, and to accept of, and improve the visits of others, whom the providence of God should send unto her: or those (who being judged by the Church fit for the visiting of the sick in these cases of hazard) are wont to come with more freedom. Of whom there was one who used to come several

times

times to her, and who was through the Lords blessing, useful to her: to whom she gave hearty thanks for his visit. And one time, after he was gone, she began to weep bitterly, and her father asked her the cause. Have I not matter for weeping, said she, for what I have heard but just now by the visiter, that Domine de Witte was to day taken sick in the pulpit, and went home so unwel, which is a sad token for the people? For when God is about to smite a Land or a City, often times he smiteth and removeth their Pastors: & ought we not then to lay such a thing to heart? altho for my part, I know that I shal not long live to behold the evil which may come, and which I have helped to procure as well as others: and therefore I pray with David. Psal. 25. Remember not, O Lord, the sins of my youth, nor my trespasses: according to thy tender mercy, remember thou me, for thy goodness sake, O Lord. *Oh how do I long* even as the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my thirsty soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, the living God. *Oh, how doth my soul thirst all the day* after thee, O God, *Psal. 42. And further in the words of that* 51. Ps. Have mercy upon me, O Lord, according to thy loving kindness: according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. *And* so forward to the 11. vers. which she much

much inſiſted upon, often repeating the ſame, eſpecially the 5. verſe, Behold, I was ſhapen in iniquity, and in ſin did my mother conceive me. Upon which words, ſhe enlarged her meditation and ſpeech, according as ſhe had learned from the Scriptures and the Catechiſm, and the books written thereupon for explication, concerning that ſubject of original ſin. This is come, ſaid ſhe, from the diſobedience & fall of our firſt parents in paradiſe, that our nature is ſo corrupted, that we are all, and altogether conceived and born in ſin: So we read alſo Gen. 5 3. thus, Adam (it is ſaid) begat a ſon after his own likeneſs. Sin is not of God: for he hath formed man upright in the beginning; but he hath ſought out many inventions. *Eccl.* 7. 29. Therefore, as by one man ſin entered into the world, and death by ſin, and ſo death paſſed upon all men, for that all have ſinned. but death reigned from Adam to Moſes, even over them who had not ſinned after the ſimilitude of Adams tranſgreſſion. *Rom.* 5.

She ſpoke alſo many things very ſu-dictouſly of the old man, and the putting off the ſame: and of the new man, and of the putting on thereof, from Eph 4. and then ſhe fell again upon the 51. Pſal. and theſe words, The ſacrifices of God are a broken heart: a broken and a contrite ſpirit, O Lord, thou wilt not deſpiſe. That bro-

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kenness of heart, said she, which is built upon, and floweth from faith: and that faith which is built upon Christ, who is the proper and alone true sacrifice for sin. And hereupon she spoke of the offerings and sacrifices of Abel and of Cain Heb. 11. 4.

Thereafter she desired to rest, and having slumbered a little, she said: Ah, dear father and mother, how weak do I find my self. My dear child, said her father, God shal in his tender mercy strengthen you in your weakness. Yea, father, said she, that is my confidence: for it is said, Isai. 42. The bruised reed he will not break, and the smoaking flax he will not quench. Should I not then believe? Read Heb. 11 How Abraham being proved of God, did by faith offer up Isaac in sacrifice. Oh, what a stedfast & loyal faith was that of Abraham, which made him willing and ready to offer this his own one son? Oh, what is faith? Faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen. Heb. 11. 1. Also 2. Tim. 2. 19 The fundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth those who are his own. But now, dear father and mother, why weep ye so over me, knowing so well, I hope, that if the Lord shal be pleased to take me out

out of this lamentable woful world, it ſhal be well with me, and that therewith ye ought to be content: It is ſaid, Pſal 115. Our God is in the heavens, and doth all whatſoever he pleaſeth. Yea, we pray every day that his will may be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. Now, father, this is Gods will that I ly upon this ſick-bed of this diſeaſe: therefore we muſt be content that it be to us according to our prayer: otherwiſe we then ſhould murmure againſt God, without whoſe good pleaſure, nothing comes to paſs. Although I be thus ſtricken with ſo heavy and ſad a diſeaſe, yet it is the will of God, and there is my ſilence: therefore I will pray that his will be done, and not mine: therefore, father, never doubt of Gods providence; for it is ſaid, Matth. 10. Are not two ſparrows ſold for a farthing, and that not one of them falleth to the earth without your Father? Yea the hairs of your head are alſo numbred. Therefore fear not, ye are better then many ſparrows. And Lam. 3. 38. There goeth not out of the mouth of the Almighty good and evil. Adverſity and proſperity are both good. Some things may ſeem evil in our eyes, but the Lord turneth all to good. Amos 3 6. Shal there be evil in the City which the Lord

Lord doth not? Cometh not the pestilence from God? What mean those people, who say that it cometh by the air? And is not the Lord the Creator and the Ruler of the air, and all the elements? Or if it come out of the earth, yet is it of the Lord. What talk they, that it came with a ship which was come from Africa? We have long ago read together out of Levit. 26 25 I shal bring a sword upon you, to avenge the quarrel of my Covenant: and where you are assembled in your Cities, then shal I bring the pestilence in the midst of you.

After this, she sought some rest again: and having slumbered a little she said: O now, my dear father and mother, now is this day for the opening of the first question of the Catechism: and if we were there with others, we should hear, that whether in death or life, we are the Lord Jesus Christs, our faithful Savior, who hath by his own precious blood redeemed us from the power of the devil. And the following words, Rom. 14. 8. For none of us liveth to himself, and none of us dieth to himself: for whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether then we live or die, we are the Lords. Then be comforted: for whether I die, I shal

die

die to the Lord, or if I live, I shal live to the Lord. The life which God at first gave me, I have as yet: and so long as the soul is in the body, there is hope: wherefore then do ye so much afflict your selves. But what shal I say, with weeping I came into the world, & with weeping must I go out of it. Oh! my dear parents. Better is the day of death, then the day of ones birth Eccles 7.1. There is a time to be born, and a time to die. If my time to die be not come, I shal then not die: so then ye must comfort your selves, and think that God shal make all well. Ah my dear father and mother, let us pray together, and pray the Lord with me, that he would vouchsafe upon me a quiet & peaceable passage through death. Her father, after he had prayed, being full of fatherly sympathy & care of such a child, both in what concerned her soul & body, asked her, If he should once more bring the Physician to her? Nay said she, the Doctor shal do me nothing, nor can he help me; but I hope abundantly that my heavenly Father shal help me. Well, said her father, my child, we shal use the ordinary means, and let the Lord bless, as he sees good. Yea, said she, dear father, the heavenly Physician is the true helper: he shal

help

help, he can help both soul and body. It is said, Matth 11.28 Come unto me all ye who are weary and heavy loaden, and I will give you rest. See there, father, there is the helper, even as Psal. 50. Call upon me in the day of distress, I shal deliver, and thou shalt glorifie me. All who are in trouble, must call upon God alone: for when humane help is done, then beginneth Gods help, for them who call upon him in truth and in faith: therefore let us once more pray. After her father had prayed, the friend above mentioned, came to visit her: and as the Lord had so opened and enlarged her heart, that every word spoken to her from the Scripture, took hold upon her with refreshing impression: so was the visiter also much refreshed by her, wondering at the grace of God in her, and that she spake so pertinently and affectionately to her parents, for comforting them. And so after she had bid him thanks for his visit, he took his leave with tears, which were tears as much of joy as sorrow. When he was gone, she asked, What day is it now? They told her, it was monday. Then said she: To morrow is the catechising day in our quarter. Here is one thing I will earnestly beg of you, father, and that ye will promise it to me,

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and that is, that ye shal go to Domine de Witte and Ardinois, and thank them for the learning and instruction which I reaped by their catechising: and tell them, that these excellent and brave places of Scripture which they taught me upon the Catechism at the meetings in the Kirk, have been, and are blessed of God for my comfort now upon my death-bed; yea, are useful unto me for my salvation. Oh, that sweet catechising, unto which I did always resort with gladness and waited upon it without wearying until it was ended. I have seen and understood that there is so little comfort and good, and so much vanity in the Kermis, and holy idle days of play, that I have grieved, and been ashamed, both for young and old people, to see them so glad and mad upon vanity. Also, dear father, ye shal give thanks to my School-master and Mistris who taught me the first beginnings of my reading: I intreat and hope that ye will do so. and not forget my thanks to the Ministers, as ye have already promised. Yea, said her father, I promise you, I shal, if the Lord preserve my life and health (which accordingly he did, at convenient occasion on her behalf: which was refreshing, and acceptable to these

worthy men, as if it had been a present of another nature from some greater personage.

Being wearied and weakened with speaking, she sought some rest: and having turned her to the wall, she slumbered about a quarter of an hour; & being awake, her father asked, How she did? and perceived somewhat of the great satisfaction and contentment he had in her reading, and writing, and her religious profiting. Yea father, said she, in that ye have been so careful for me to get me to read and learn, hath been better to me then if ye had provided ten thousand gilders of portion for me; for thereby have I learned to comfort my self out of the Word of God.

Her father perceiving her growing weak said to her: My dear child, I think thou becomes very weak. Yea, said she, I feel it so more and more: as also your grief for me. I see doth increase, which is a piece of my affliction. Be content, I pray you, it is the Lord who doth all this: and let us with David, 2. Sam. 24. 14. fall in the Lords hand, for his mercies are great. David while his child was sick, he fasted, and ate not; but when the child was dead, & God had declared his purpose in it, then he did eat: yea, Why

should

should I now fast? should, can I bring him back from death? I shal go to him, but he shal not return to me, 2. Sam. 12. 23. So ought ye to comfort your self after my death, and say, Our child is well; for we know that they who trusted in God, are well. My dear mother, who hath done so much for me, ye must promise to me, that after my death ye shal not sorrow so much for I am afraid for you, when I consider your grief for me and for my other sister and brother who are gone through death before me. And consider your neighbor, who hath left her two sons, and hath no more children. Ye shal both of you promise me that ye will comfort one another. Comfort your selves with Job who having left all his children, said: The Lord hath given, and the Lord hath taken away: blessed be the Name of the Lord. Do ye not think but it went very sad with him? Ye know well that Christ said to the Apostles, John 16. 33. In the world ye shal have tribulation: but be of good comfort, in me ye shal have peace. I have overcome the world. And must the Apostles suffer so great tribulations and shal not we endure somewhat? Yea, hath not Jesus Christ my only life and Savior, in the garden of Gethsemane, (what bood for my sake?

Was he not mocked, and spitted upon in Jerusalem, and thereafter nailed unto the cross, and a spear thrust through his blessed side, and all this for my sake, for my stinking sins sake? Yea, there he cryed with a loud voice, My God, my God, wherefore hast thou forsaken me? Now thus hath he purchased his Church with his own blood, Acts 20. 28. From the cross is that precious blood to be gotten, which alone can cleanse us from all sin, 1. Joh. 4. 7. There did Jesus hang naked, who hath purchased to me the garment of salvation, and cloathed me with the robe of righteousness, Isai. 6. 10. And salvation is in none other besides him: yea, There is no other Name in heaven, or earth amongst men, by which to be saved, Acts 4. 12.

Oh, dear father & mother, I wax more and more feeble & weak: oh that I may quietly fall asleep in his bosom: and till then he may strengthen me, and take me in his arms, as he did the little children, and said, Mark 10. 14. Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the Kingdom of God. *And it is said*, vers. 16. He took them in his arms, and laid his hands upon them, and blessed them. I lye here as a child: O Lord, I am a child, receive me into thy gracious arms, O Lord: grace, grace & not justice: for if thou enter in judgement with me, I cannot stand: yea, No

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living shal in thy sight be justified, *Psal.* 143. 2. For there is none who sinneth not, 1 *Kings* 4. 6.

Thus with continued speaking, she became very faint, and all her strength seemed quite gone, yet she forced a cry more: Ah, my dear mother; ah, how faint and feeble. This did so pierce the heart of her mother, that she could say nothing but, Ah, my dear child. Then began she again to comfort her mother: So long as my life is in this body, there is hope, said she. If it should please the Lord to recover me to life & health, how careful and earnest would I be to please you, in my work and learning, and what ye would require and lay upon me. And hereupon again being a little more revived, the Lord renewed her strength wonderfully, to speak as before, and to comfort her self and her parents, out of the Scriptures, saying with the Apostle Rom 8 28. We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, even to those who are the called of God, according to his purpose. O God establish me with thy free Spirit, that I never fall from thy love. Yea, it is said there, Who shal separate us from the love of Christ? I am perswaded that neither life, nor death, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shal separate us from the love

of

God, which is towards us in Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Alſo John* 10. 27. 28. 29. My ſheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me, and I give unto them eternal life, and they ſhall never periſh, and no man ſhal pluck them out of my hand: my Father who gave them me, is greater then all, and none ſhal pull them out of my Fathers hand. *But now let me reſt a little.*

After ſome ſlumbering, ſhe ſpake to her father again with much gladneſs & joy of heart. It is ſaid, ſaith ſhe, 1 Cor 15. 54. 55. 56. 57. Death is ſwallowed up of victory. O Death! where is thy ſting? O Hell! where is thy victory? The ſting of death is ſin, and the ſtrength of ſin is the Law: but God be thanked, who giveth us victory, through our Lord Jeſus Chriſt. **There, ye ſee that my Savior hath overcome death, and the ſting of death, who then would not be earneſtly content to die? for we muſt all once die. We are from the earth and to the earth we muſt return: the duſt is mother of us all,** Eccl. 12. 7. The duſt ſhal turn to duſt, from whence it is, & the ſpirit to God who gave it. **So that my ſpirit ſhal turn to God who is the giver of all things. But of what is mans life upon earth?** The dayes of man upon earth are as the graſs, as the flowr of the field ſo he flowriſheth. The wind paſſeth over it, and it is no more, and his place knoweth him no more, Pſal 103. 15 16. **And if a man ſhould live long, yet the longer he ſhould live, he**

be ſhould the more part ſin. Pſal. 90 10. The dayes of our years are threeſcore & ten years: and if by ſtrength they be fourſcore, yet is the ſtrength thereof labor and ſorrow. Now the Lord ſhal free me from all that labor, and that ſorrow. Suppoſe & think with your ſelves, that ye were both ſick and the Lord ſhould come and take you from us, and leave us, your children, behind you, how far greater loſs ſhould that ſeem for us? Is it not better that the Lord remove us firſt, who would (belike) have ſo few friends behind you? But we know not the thoughts of the Lord, yet we know they are peace and good, and not evil, and to give an expected end unto good. But oh! what ſhall I ſay, my life ſhal not continue long, I feel ſo much anxiety. Oh, Lord, look upon me graciouſly: have pity upon my weak & diſtreſſed heart, my diſtreſſed ſoul. I am oppreſt undertake for me, that I may ſtand faſt, and overcome. Here again, a little reviving ſhe ſaid: *It is ſaid*, John 14. 16. I will pray the Father, and he ſhal give you another Comforter, who ſhal remain with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth. O Lord, let him not leave me. O Lord, continue with me, till my battle & work be finiſhed: without thee, I can do nothing. John 15 5. I am ſaid Chriſt, the true vine, and my Father is the husband-man.

Ah,

Ah, ah, thy God, let me be a branch of that living vine. Oh, what are we, poor worms, who can of our selves do nothing? O, dear father, how lame & halting go we in the ways of God's salvation? 1. Cor. 13 9. 10. For we know but in part & we prophesie but in part; but when that which is perfect is come, then shall that which is in part be done away. Oh, that I had attained to it. Now, but what are we of our selves? Gen. 6 5. See not only the weakness and roughness, but also the wickedness of man: That all the imaginations of the thoughts of the heart are evil, and only evil continually. And Eph. 2. We were by nature the children of wrath: and are conceived and born in sin & unrighteousness. Psal. 51. Oh, oh, this wretched vile thing sin. but thanks be to God who hath redeemed me from it. Rom 8 15 16 17. Ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear: but ye have received the spirit of adoption, by which ye cry, Abba, Father. It is the spirit which witnesseth with our spirit, that we are the children of God. And if children, then are we heirs: heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ. Thence ye see, father, that I shall be a fellow heir with Christ, who hath said, John 14. 2. 3. In my Fathers house are many mansions: I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and take you to my self, that where I am, there ye may be also. O Lord, take me to thy self.

Be

Behold, dear mother, he hath prepared a place and dwelling for me. Yea, my dear child, said her mother, he shal strengthen you with his holy Spirit, until he hath fitted you, and prepared you fully for that place which he hath prepared for you. Yea mother, it is said *in Psal.* 84. How lovely are thy Tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! my soul doth thirst, and longeth for the courts of the Lord. One day in thy courts, is better then a thousand. *Yea, said David:* I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God, then to dwel in tents of the wicked. *Read that* Psalm, dear mother, and there with ye may comfort one another. As for me, I am more & more spent, and draw near to my last hour: pray with me: pray that the Lord would vouchsafe unto me a soft death. And when they had prayed with her, she turned her to her mother, and with much affection she said: Ah my dear and loving mother, that which cometh from the heart, doth ordinarily go to the heart. Once come and kis me before I leave you, and also my dear father, and my sister. And, father, let my sister be trained up in the ways of God, as I have been: I have sighed and prayed for my sister, thinking she should die: and now she weepeth for me. Also she took her young little sister in her armes a child of six moneths old, and she kissed

it with much affection, as if her bowels had been moved; and spake with many heart-breaking words, both to the parents, and the children. Her father said to one standing by: Take from her that poor lambkin, from the hazard of that fiery sickness, Give her from you: for ye have too much already to bear. Well, father, said she, did not God preserve the three children in the fiery furnace. Ye your self learned me from Isai. 43. 3. When thou passest through the fire, thou shalt not be burnt, neither shal the flame kindle upon thee.

After this, she had some little rest, & being awaked, she said: We read 1. Cor. 15. 42. 43. The body is sown in corruption, but shal be raised incorruptible. It is sown in dishonor, but shal be raised in glory: it is sown in vveakness, but shal be raised in power. Behold thus it is, and thus it shal be with my poor mortal flesh. Rev. 14. 13. Blessed are the dead vvho die in the Lord: because they do rest from ther labor, and their vvorks shal follow them. *Isai.* 57. 1. 2. The righteous perish, and no man layeth it to heart: and the upright are taken away, and no man regardeth it, that they are taken away before the evil vvhich cometh. They shal enter into peace: they shal rest in their beds, every one vvho have vvalked in their uprightness. *Behold* now, father, I shal rest and sleep in that bed-chamber. Also Job saith chap. 19. 25. 26. 27. I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that

he ſhal ſtand at the latter day upon the earth. And though, after my ſkin, vvorms deſtroy this body, yet in my fleſh ſhal I ſee God: vvhom I ſhal ſee for my ſelf, and mine eyes ſhal behold, and not another, though my reins be cõſumed vvithin me. **Behold now father, this very ſkin which ye ſee, and this very fleſh which ye ſee, ſhal be raiſed up again: and theſe very eyes which now are ſo dim, ſhal on that day ſee & behold my dear & precious Redeemer. Albeit the worms ſhal eat up my fleſh, yet with theſe eyes ſhal I behold God; even I my ſelf, & not another for me.** John 5.28 29 Marvel not for this, for the hour is coming, in the vvhich all vvho are in the grave ſhal hear, and come forth: theſe vvho have done good, unto the reſurrection of life. **See father, I ſhal riſe on that day, and then I ſhal behold my Redeemer: then ſhal he ſay:** Come ye bleſſed of my Father, inherite the Kingdom prepared for you before the beginning of the vvorld. *Behold, now* I live, yet not I, but Chriſt liveth in me: and the life that I now live in the fleſh, is by the faith of the Son of God, vvho loved me, and hath given himſelf for me. I am ſaved, and that of grace, through faith: and that not of my ſelf, it is the gift of God. Not of vvorks, to the end that no man ſhould boaſt. *Eph.* 2. 8. 9. **My dear parents, now we muſt ſhortly part, my ſpeech faileth me: pray the Lord for a quiet cloſe to my combat. Ah, our dear child how ſad is that to**

us that we must part. Yea, said she, I go to heaven, and there shal we find one another. I go to Jesus Christ, and to my brother Jacob, who did so much cry to God, and call upon him to the very last breathing: and to my little sister, which was but three years old age when it died: and when we asked it, if it would die? Yea, said it, if it be Gods will, I will go to my little brother, if the Lord will: or I will also stay with my mother, if it be his will: but I know that I shal die, and go to heaven to God. Oh, see how so smal a babe, to which so much grace was given, as to have it self every way, and in all things so subjected and submitted to the will of God, as if it had no will of its own. It said always, If it be the will of God: if it please God. Nothing for it, but as it was the will of God, the pleasure of God, &c. And therefore, dear father and mother, give the Lord thanks for this his free and rich grace, and then I shal the more gladly be gone. Be gracious then, O Lord, unto me also, be gracious to me: Wash me throughly from my unrighteousness, and cleanse me from my sin. *It is said, Isai.* 1.18. Although your sins were as skarlet, they shal be white as snow. Although they were red as crimson, yet they shal be as wool. *Behold, God hath washen away my sin. Oh, how do I long:* For in this body

body, *ſaid the Apoſtle*, we earneſtly ſigh & groan, longing for our houſe which is in heaven, that we may be cloathed. 2. *Cor.* 5. 2. *Now I* alſo by here ſighing, and longing for that dwelling which is above. In the laſt ſermon which I heard, or ſhall ever hear on earth, I heard of this in the new Birth, which is matter of great comfort now unto me.

When ſhe brought forth ſeveral notable Scriptures which were quoted in that ſermon, eſpecially Revel. 22. And then ſhe called for prayer. Pray with me, ſaid ſhe, that my ſins may be forgiven me, and that I may have the more abundant faith, and aſſurance of it, and the comfort of that aſſurance, and the ſtrength of that comfort, according to my neceſſity. She prayed her ſelf, and continued a pretty ſpace.

After prayer (in which ſhe inſiſted principally for pardon of ſin) ſhe ſaid, My dear parents, have I angered or grieved you at any time, or done what became me not? forgive it me. O poor child (ſay they) if all children carried ſo to their parents, as thou haſt done, there ſhould be leſs grief & ſorrow upon all hands. And if any ſuch thing had eſcaped thee, we would forgive it with our whole heart: you have done as became a good child. The

The heart of her being quieted by her peace with God her Father in the heavens, and her peace with her parents on earth, then she began to dispone her bookes and other little things: and as the grace of God had made her so wise unto salvation, so she did show some proportion of Christian prudence, almost in every thing, smaller, and greater. My dear mother, said she, ye shall keep my Catechisse book, in remembrance of me. Ye shall keep Dom. de Witts catechisation, so long as ye live: and let my little sister have the other book, as my remembrance. In the mean while she told that she found her heart exceedingly pained and overwhelmed, and that she knew that her life should quickly pass away. Her father speaking a word, as he was able, hoping the Lord would be near with his strength in this sad hour of her necessity. Yea, said she, The Lord is my shepherd: although I pass through the shadow of the valley of death, I will not fear, for thou art with me: Thy rod and thy staff shall comfort me. *Psal.* 23. *And it is said, Rom.* 8. The sufferings of this present life, are not worthy to be compared to the glory which shall be revealed in us. *Shall I* not suffer to endure, seeing my glorious Redeemer behooved to suffer so much? Oh how was he mocked and spitted on, crowned with thornes, that he might

purchase

purchaſe a crown of righteouſneſs for us. And that is the crown of which Paul ſaid, 1. *Tim.* 4. 7. 8. I have fought the good fight, I have finiſhed my race, and keeped the faith. Henceforth is laid up for me a crown of righteouſneſs, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, ſhal give unto me in that day: and not only to me, but to all who love his appearing. 1. *Cor.* 6. 20. Ye are bought with a price: therefore glorifie God in your ſouls and bodies which are his. *Muſt I not then exalt and bleſs him while I have being, who hath bought, yea bought me with his blood?* Iſai. 53 Surely he hath born our griefs, and took our infirmities: and we eſteemed him ſmitten and ſtricken of God. But he was wounded for our tranſgreſſions, and bruiſed for our ſin. The chaſtiſement of our peace was upon him, and through his ſtripes are we healed. And the Lord hath laid on him the iniquities of us all. *John* 1. Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the ſins of the world. *Behold that Lamb is Jeſus Chriſt: alſo, for my ſins he hath ſatisfied. So ſaid Paul,* 1. *Cor.* 6. 11. Ye are waſhed, ye are ſanctified, ye are juſtified in the Name of the Lord Jeſus, and through the Spirit of our God. *My end is now very near: now that I put on white rayment, and be cloathed before the Lamb, that ſpotleſs Lamb, with his ſpotleſs righteouſneſs. Now are the Angels making ready to carry my ſoul before the throne of God.* Thoſe are they who are come out of great tribulation, who have waſhed their robes, and made them white

white in the blood of the Lamb, Rev. 7. She spake this with a dying voice: but full of the Spirit, and of the power of faith. And this her lively assurance and perswasion of her salvation she further uttered with the words of Paul, 2. Cor. 5. 1. 2. For we know, that if this earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have one which is built of God, an house not made with hands, but eternal in the heaven. For in this we sigh for our house which is in heaven, that we may be clothed therewith. There, father, ye see that my body is this tabernacle, which now shal be broken down. My soul shal now part from it, and shal be taken up into heavenly Paradise, into that heavenly Jerusalem. There shal I dwel, and go no more out, but sit and sing: Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God of Hosts, the Lord of Sabaoth. And her last words: O Lord God, into thy hands I commit my spirit. O Lord, be gracious, be merciful unto me a poor sinner. And hereupon she fell asleep, being the first of September in the evening, betwixt 7. and 8. having obtained very remarkably, that which so often she intreated of the Lord; to wit, a soft and quiet departure, and the end of her faith, the salvation of her soul.

Here

Here follow the laſt words
of her

ROTHER JACOB,

a child of ſeven years old.

THis little child was viſited by the Lord with a very ſore ſickneſs, upon the 6. of Auguſt, three or four weeks before his death: of whoſe death we have given ſome account already; for moſt part [illegible] near his death. That which he ſpake ordinarly when he was awake, is in theſe few words following communicated to the Chriſtian Reader. So often as he awaked, he gave himſelf to pray. Once when his parents had prayed, they asked him, If they ſhould not once more call for the Phyſician. Nay, ſaid he, dear father and mother, I will not have the Doctor any more: the Lord ſhal help me: I know he ſhal take me to himſelf, and then he ſhal help all. Ah my dear child, ſaid the father, that maketh my heart ſore. Well, ſaid the child, father, let us pray, and the Lord ſhal be near for my

helper. And as the parents had again prayed, he said, Come now, dear father and mother, and kiss me. I know not that I shal die. Adew, dear father and mother: adew, my dear sister: adew all. Now shal I go to heaven unto God and Jesus Christ, and the holy Angels. Father, know ye not what is said by Jeremie chap. 17. Blessed is he who trusteth in the Lord. Now I shal trust in him, and he will bless me. And 1 John. Little children, love not the world, for the world passeth away. Away then with all that is in the world: away with all my pleasant things in the [illegible] with my dagger (which a Student had propined him) for where I go, there is nothing to do with dagger and sword. Men shal not fight there, but praise God. Away with all my books; for where I go, there is nothing ado with books. There I shal know, and be learned sufficiently all things of true wisdom and learning without books. The father being astonished with wonder, knew not well what to say: but, My dear child, the Lord will be near to thee and uphold thee. Then, father, said he, the Apostle Peter saith: God resisteth the proud, but he giveth grace unto the humble. I shal humble my self under the

mighty

ighty hand of God, and he shal help
d life me up. Ah, my dear child, said
e father, hast thou so strong a faith?
od will strengthen thy faith. Yea,
id the child, father, God hath given
e so strong a faith upon himself,
rough Jesus Christ, that the devil
mself shal flee from me: for it is said,
hn. 3. He who believeth on the Son, hath
erlasting life, and hath overcome the
cked one. 1. John 2. Now I believe
Jesus Christ my Redeemer, and he
ill not leave nor sake me; but shal
ve unto me eternal life: Then shal
sing, Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of
baoth. And with the short word of
ayer, Lord, be merciful to me a poor
nner, he quietly breathed it out, and
ept in the Lord, the 8. of August 1663.

To conclude, we may see here by the
outh of these children (being as it were,
we or three of that blessed cloud of wit-
esses, Hebr. 12. 1.) that verified which
e read, Isai. 65. 20. The child shal die an
undred years old. Reader, I have no
ore to say to thee: but as thou would
sh to live for ever, stand in aw of that
hich followeth immediately in that
me verse: But the sinner though an
undred years old shal be accursed.

FINIS.